Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for compressing a stent having at least one protrusion, comprising:

a mandrel insertable into a lumen of the stent for holding the stent;

a protrusion compressor coupled to said mandrel, said mandrel rotatable relative to said protrusion compressor, said protrusion compressor having a tab extending therefrom towards said mandrel, said tab pressing the at least one protrusion of the stent inwardly toward the lumen of the stent when said mandrel is rotated relative to said protrusion compressor, said protrusion compressor having a grip portion with a hub and a collar, said collar coaxially received on said hub with said tab extending therefrom at a distal end thereof, said collar moveable telescopically on said hub between a retracted position and a deployed position, said hub having a relief slot on a distal end thereof, said tab alignable with said relief slot when said collar and tab are in the deployed position, said tab capturing the at least one protrusion of the stent between said tab and said relief slot when said apparatus compresses the at least one protrusion.

2. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said mandrel extends through said protrusion compressor coaxially.

3. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 2, further comprising a knob disposed on an end of said mandrel to aid in turning said mandrel and for retaining said protrusion compressor on said mandrel.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 3, wherein said mandrel has a stent fixation zone with an outer diameter greater than the interior diameter of at least a portion of the lumen of the stent prior to installation of the stent on the mandrel and frictionally engaging the stent when the stent is placed on the mandrel over the stent retention zone to hold the stent on

the mandrel and provide resistance to turning of the stent relative to the mandrel when the mandrel is rotated.

5. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein said mandrel has a tapered end leading to said stent retention zone, said tapered end aiding in inserting the mandrel into the lumen of the stent and sliding the stent on to the stent retention zone.

6. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein said protrusion compressor is captured between said knob and said stent retention zone.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein ~~said protrusion compressor has a grip portion with a hub and a collar, said collar coaxially received on said hub and having said tab extending therefrom at a distal end thereof,~~ said collar is restrained from rotating relative to said grip portion by a pin extending there through and into an elongated slot in said hub, said slot and pin constraining the collar to telescopic movement on said hub along a length of travel limited by said slot ~~and defining a retracted position and a deployed position for said tab~~.

8. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said collar has a flange extending outwardly therefrom for a user to grip said collar to aid in deployment and retraction of said tab.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of Claim 8~~ An apparatus for compressing a stent having at least one protrusion, comprising:

a mandrel insertable into a lumen of the stent for holding the stent;

a protrusion compressor coupled to said mandrel, said mandrel rotatable relative to said protrusion compressor, said protrusion compressor having a tab extending therefrom towards said mandrel, said tab pressing the at least one protrusion of the stent inwardly toward the lumen of the stent when said mandrel is rotated relative to said protrusion compressor, said mandrel extending through said protrusion compressor coaxially;

a knob disposed on an end of said mandrel to aid in turning said mandrel and for retaining said protrusion compressor on said mandrel, said mandrel having a stent fixation zone

with an outer diameter greater than the interior diameter of at least a portion of the lumen of the stent prior to installation of the stent on the mandrel and frictionally engaging the stent when the stent is placed on the mandrel over the stent retention zone to hold the stent on the mandrel and provide resistance to turning of the stent relative to the mandrel when the mandrel is rotated, said protrusion compressor being captured between said knob and said stent retention zone, said protrusion compressor having a grip portion with a hub and a collar, said collar coaxially received on said hub and having said tab extending therefrom at a distal end thereof, said collar restrained from rotating relative to said grip portion by a pin extending there through and into an elongated slot in said hub, said slot and pin constraining the collar to telescopic movement on said hub along a length of travel limited by said slot and defining a retracted position and a deployed position for said tab, said collar having a flange extending outwardly therefrom for a user to grip said collar to aid in deployment and retraction of said tab, wherein said grip portion has a hollow post extending from said hub, said post having a relief slot on a distal end thereof, said relief slot positioned on said post to align with said tab when said tab is in the deployed position, said tab capturing the at least one protrusion of the stent between said tab and said relief slot when said apparatus compresses the at least one protrusion.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 9, further including a ball and detent interface disposed between said grip portion and said knob, said ball and detent interface controlling the relative rotation between said grip portion and said knob.

11. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the at least one protrusion of the stent is at least one enlarged coil disposed at an end of the stent, said apparatus pressing the enlarged coil inwardly by pushing said collar portion forward to the deployed position to capture said enlarged coil between said tab and said relief slot and turning the knob and the mandrel relative to said protrusion compressor.

12. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 11, further including a sleeve extending from a said collar distal to said flange, said tab extending from said sleeve.

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for compressing a coiled stent having at least one external protuberance, comprising:

means for holding the stent;

means for capturing ~~compressing~~ the at least one external protuberance, including a tab and an opposable slot between which the at least one external protuberance can be captured, said means for capturing ~~compressing~~ being rotatably coupled to said means for holding, such that relative rotation thereof compresses the at least one protuberance~~, said means for compressing acting on the stent by exerting a force perpendicular to an axis of the stent~~.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 13, further comprising,

means for gripping said means for holding the stent to aid in rotating said means for holding relative to said means for capturing ~~compressing~~.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 14, further comprising, means for gripping said means for capturing ~~compressing~~ the stent.

Remarks/Arguments

The Claim Rejections/Objections

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-4, 6 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mikus, et al. (2002/0151967). The Examiner has rejected Claims 4,7,8 and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mikus, et al. (2002/0151967). The Examiner has objected to Claim 9 for dependence upon a rejected claim, but indicates that Claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The Response

Applicant has amended Claim 9 to be in independent form. While Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's interpretation of Mikus as stated in Applicant's prior Response, to